

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SPECIAL ORDER NO.16

May 2, 2003

**SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION OF ARRESTEES - REVISED**

**PURPOSE:** Supplemental Restraint Systems (SRS), or airbags, while intended as a safety feature, also pose potential hazards to certain occupants in vehicles. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) warns of possible fatal head and neck injuries to children, as well as to those restrained only by lap belts. To minimize possible injury, this Order revises the procedures for transportation of arrestees and the use of child safety restraints, in any Department vehicle.

**PROCEDURE:**

**I. TRANSPORTATION OF ARRESTEES.** All arrestees transported in any Department vehicle, regardless of age or gender, shall be secured in the rear seat. A three-point safety belt shall be used; however, a two-point safety belt (lap belt) shall be worn when a three-point safety belt is not provided.

**Note:** A one-officer unit may transport a non-belligerent arrestee using a partition-equipped vehicle only. The arrestee shall ride in the rear seat with the officer in close proximity visually monitoring the arrestee (Department Manual Section 4/217.50).

**II. CHILD SEAT RESTRAINTS.** A child twelve (12) years of age and under, who is to be transported in any Department vehicle, shall be secured in the rear seat of the vehicle. A child who is under six (6) years of age or weighing less than sixty (60) pounds shall be secured in a child passenger seat restraint (car seat).

**AMENDMENTS:** This Order amends Section 4/217.50 and 4/289 of the Department Manual.

**AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY:** Bureau commanding officers shall monitor compliance with this directive in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.

**WILLIAM J. BRATTON**  
Chief of Police

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